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MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lincoln/Lancaster County MRC Formed	1
Upcoming Events and Training	1
MO MRC Coordinators Participate in Volunteer Symposium	2



Lincoln/Lancaster County MRC Formed

Welcome to the Lincoln/Lancaster County MRC! On October 4, 2005, the Lincoln/Lancaster County MRC received official recognition from the MRC national program office, becoming the second MRC unit in Nebraska and the 13th MRC unit in Region VII. The Lincoln/Lancaster County MRC is sponsored by Volunteer Partners, a volunteer center serving Lincoln and Lancaster County, Nebraska. The purpose of Volunteer Partners is to match volunteers' interests with the needs of not-for-profit organizations and local government agencies in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

The Lincoln/Lancaster County MRC is a component of the local Citizen Corps Council and operates in partnership with the Lancaster County Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). The purpose of the Lincoln/Lancaster County MRC is to (1) organize and prepare healthcare volunteers to assist the community in an emergency and (2) strengthen the public health and medical infrastructure of the community.

For more information on the Lincoln/Lancaster County MRC, contact Margo McKendree, MRC Coordinator, at (402) 435-2100 or emergcoord@volunteerpartners.org. You may also visit the Volunteer Partners website at www.volunteerpartners.org to learn more about the Lincoln/Lancaster County MRC.

Upcoming Events and Training

IAEM 2005 Annual Conference and EMEX. November 12-16, 2005 in Phoenix, AZ. Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm>.

Emergency Preparedness and Response-Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina. November 30-December 1, 2005 in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by Homeland Defense Journal. For more information, visit the conference website at http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/conf_EmergPrepComm.htm.

American Public Health Association (APHA) 133rd Annual Meeting and Exposition. December 10-14, 2005 in Philadelphia, PA. For more information, see the APHA website at http://www.apha.org/meetings/new_orleans_update.htm.

2005 National Summit on Emergency response and Preparedness for Schools. December 15-16, 2005 in Arlington, VA. Sponsored by the Performance Institute. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.performanceweb.org/Centers/Education/Events/S209/S209.htm>.

Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services, Region VII
601 E. 12th Street, Room S1801, Kansas City, MO 64106 (816) 426-2829 (816) 426-2178 Fax

27th Annual International Disaster Management**Conference.** February 9-12, 2006 in Orlando, FL.

Sponsored by the Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. For more information, visit the conference website at

<http://www.emlrc.org/disaster2006.htm>.

2006 Local, State and Federal Public Health**Preparedness Summit.** February 21-24, 2006 in

Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the National

Association of County and City Health Officials

(NACCHO). For more information, visit the conference

website at <http://www.naccho.org/phprep06/>.

Missouri MRC Coordinators Participate in Volunteer Symposium

Recently, MRC coordinators from across Missouri participated in the 1st Annual Public Health Volunteers Symposium. This event was held in Columbia, MO on August 25, 2005 and was sponsored by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism and Center for Local Public Health Services, along with the St. Louis University School of Public Health's Heartland Center for Public Health Preparedness. This symposium was conducted to enhance the planning, coordination and utilization of Missouri's public health volunteers.

The symposium featured presentations on the following topics:

- ☐ *Lessons Learned from the Oklahoma City Bombing*, presented by Toni Frioux, Asst. Deputy Commissioner for Community Health Issues, Oklahoma Department of Health
- ☐ *Activating and Deploying Public Health Volunteers During Disasters*, presented by Mark Lundburg, Volunteer Coordinator, Florida Department of Health
- ☐ *Panel Discussion* with Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, Region VII; Melissa Friel, Executive Director, American Red Cross Capital Area Chapter (Jefferson City, MO); Danilea Werner, Sr. Project Coordinator, Heartland Center for Public Health Preparedness

The symposium also featured workshops designed to address current issues affecting public health volunteers in Missouri, such as:

- ☐ Database development
- ☐ Program operating protocols
- ☐ Standardized training for volunteers

Susan Hoskins, Mid-America MRC Unit Commander, served on the standardized training working group. This working group developed a core training program for all public health volunteers in Missouri, including MRC volunteers. These core training courses included:

- An orientation course
- The role of public health in emergencies
- Family emergency preparedness
- NIMS training
- Specific jobs within a POD site

Standardized training will facilitate use of Public health volunteers throughout the state, and will enable MRC units to assist one another if necessary.